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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [NK](#) [SW](#)

SUBJECT: SWEDEN CONDEMNS DPRK NUCLEAR TEST

¶1. On May 25, the North Korean Ambassador to Sweden, Ri Hui Chol, was summoned to the MFA where State Secretary Frank Belfrage, the number two official in the ministry, delivered an official protest against North Korea's nuclear test. Belfrage called it an escalation of the already tense situation on the Korean Peninsula. Ri's responses were "nothing different from the DPRK official press line," DPRK desk officer Emma Nordlund told us. Belfrage urged North Korea to resume the Six Party talks, follow NPT guidelines, and open up its nuclear sites for IAEA inspections.

¶2. Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, who is traveling in Asia, made several statements to the media and on his blog, including: "It is alarming that the North Korean regime continues to provoke the international community. In a poor, oppressed society, this extremely closed regime is investing enormous resources on these increasingly serious provocations." He added that there is no military solution to the situation, "diplomacy is the only way."

¶3. Sweden has had a diplomatic presence in North Korea since 1973 and represents U.S. interests. Sweden also has five delegates in the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in the Demilitarized Zone.

SILVERMAN